

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 4

The College

LABORATORY OF MICROBIOLOGY
of the Department of Botany
34th and Locust Streets

April 19, 1950.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
College of Agriculture,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I received your reprint from the *Journal of Bacteriology* 59 this morning and it reminded me that I had as yet not written to thank you for the mimeographed sheets you sent me some time ago. I have been very busy and am afraid I let it slide.

I had to shelve the problem of recombination in *tumefaciens* for the time being as I was getting nowhere with it and my thesis requirements had not been fulfilled. I put it away until a later date when I will have more time and less pressure. I was unable to get an additional stable mutant, so felt that too much was at stake. I undertook instead a study of the tryptophan metabolism of the organism to see if I might relate it to some previous work I had done with Braun. It has come along slowly but so far there is nothing really significant in it.

I was pressed for time because I am looking forward to getting a job this fall and wanted to clean everything up before June. I haven't started on a job just as yet, but expect to make contacts in Baltimore next month. I hope that you and Mrs. Lederberg will be east for the meetings, as I have been looking forward to seeing you again.

Many thanks again for your help and continued interest.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. Mandel

RL:pm